GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1990
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2002
FIVE RUPEE COIN SCAM
KAMBALAPADU E. KRISHNAMURTHY

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the Five Rupee Coin Scam which came into light in the Hyderabad Mints ;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANT G. GEETE)

(a) An incident of theft occurred on 12-6-2002 during the transportation of Rs. 5 Coin blanks and not Rs. 5 Coins betweenthe Saifabad Mint, Hyderabad and Cherlapally Mint, Hyderabad.

(b) It was observed that on 12-6-2002, the lorry driver and the cleaner of the truck were carrying two hidden bags of Rs. 5 Coinblanks in the bonnet of the vehicle. During transportation between the Mints, smoke emerged from the bonnet which was detected by the bullion custodian and the Security Guard escorting the vehicle. They also noticed falling of Rs. 5 Coin blanks. The vehicle wasstopped and the material was collected and deposited in the Mint.

(c) The Mint authorities and the Central Industrial SecurityForce (CISF) guarding the Minthanded over the driver and the cleaner to the Police after filing an FIR. Investigation of thecase is being done by the state police who have taken the driver and cleaner of the truck in custody and have also produced them before the Court. A Senior Works Manager of the Mint was askedto conduct a preliminary enquiry. On receipt of his report, the Deputy General Managerhas been ordered to conduct a detailed enquiry which is in progress. The CISF authorities have alsoasked their Deputy Inspector General to conduct an investigationand submit a report. State police investigation is also in progress. It is stated that Mint authorities have already terminated the transport contract with immediate effect. After receipt of Final Inquiry Report of the Deputy General Manager,CISF and Police, the Government will initiate appropriate action against those found responsible for the theft.